

NEW HOST AND LOCALITY RECORDS FOR *LEPTINUS TESTACEUS* MULLER IN WESTERN OREGON  
(COLEOPTERA: LEPTINIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

*Leptinus testaceus* Müller is recorded from 7 mammalian host species and 6 localities in western Oregon.

INTRODUCTION

Apparently little is known about *Leptinus testaceus* Müller since Lutz (1948) referred to it as "a European species", and Borror and DeLong (1964) cited it as a species which "occurs in the eastern states." Furthermore, it has been most frequently referred to in the literature as a beetle which inhabits the nests of, or is an ectoparasite on, "various" or "several" species of shrews, moles, mice, and other small mammals (Hatch 1957; Arnett 1960; Borror and DeLong 1964; and others).

RESULTS

We have collected *L. testaceus* from the following 7 mammals: Trowbridge shrew (*Sorex trowbridgii* Baird), Pacific shrew (*Sorex pacificus* Coues), Yaquina shrew (*Sorex yaquinae* Jackson), marsh shrew (*Sorex bendirii* (Merriam)), wandering shrew (*Sorex vagrans* Baird), shrew mole (*Neurotrichus gibbsii* (Baird)), and Oregon or creeping mole (*Microtus oregoni* (Bachman)). For details refer to the table.

Specimens were collected at the following Oregon locations (the numbers are used to refer to these locations in Table 1): 1) Coos Co., 1.75 mi. E Brandon, 100'; 2) Douglas Co., Bum Creek, Oxbow Burn, 20 mi. SW Crow, 300'; 3) Lane Co., Carson Creek, 15 mi. S Cottage Grove, 2000'; 4) Lane Co., 23 mi. SE Vida, 3000'; 5) Benton Co., Maxwell Creek, 3 mi. E King's Valley, 1000'; 6) Lincoln Co., 1 mi. NE Otis Junction, 240'.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Müller is generally considered to be the author of the specific name *testaceus*. However, Hatch (1957:17) stated that Crotch is in fact the author and not Müller. We suggest that clarification of authorship is needed.

Gould and Beal (1952) reported *Sorex trowbridgii* as a host for *L. testaceus* in California. Thus far we have found the Trowbridge shrew to be its most common and widely distributed host.

It is of interest that 11 of 24 individual hosts (5 of 7 species) and 14 of 44 individual beetles collected over a period of more than 3 years came from 1 locality (1 mi. NE of Otis Junction, Lincoln Co.) in a single month. Whether conditions were particularly favorable for *L. testaceus* or whether it was merely chance collecting we do not know. The beetles might be more prevalent than is realized, but as the body heat of the dead host dissipates,

TABLE 1. MAMMALIAN HOST SPECIES OF *Leptinus testaceus* MÜLLER IN OREGON.

Host Mammal	Date of collection	Year	Locale (see text)	beetles per host
Order Insectivora				
Family Soricidae				
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i> Baird	3 March	1971	1	1
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	22 Oct.	1970	2	2
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	23 Oct.	1970	2	11
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	26 Oct.	1970	2	2
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	2 April	1968	4	2
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	30 Sept.	1970	4	2
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	29 March	1971	5	1
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	7 April	1971	6	1
<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	8 April	1971	6	1
<i>Sorex pacificus</i> Coues	6 May	1971	1	1
<i>Sorex yaquinae</i> Jackson	4 April	1971	6	1
<i>Sorex yaquinae</i>	8 April	1971	6	1
<i>Sorex yaquinae</i>	10 April	1971	6	1
<i>Sorex yaquinae</i>	13 April	1971	6	1
<i>Sorex yaquinae</i>	15 April	1971	6	1
<i>Sorex yaquinae</i>	22 April	1971	6	2
<i>Sorex bendirii</i> (Merriam)	6 April	1970	1	4
<i>Sorex vagrans</i> Baird	4 April	1970	3	1
<i>Sorex vagrans</i>	27 May	1970	5	1
<i>Sorex vagrans</i>	15 April	1971	6	3
Family Talpidae				
<i>Neurotrichus gibbsii</i> (Baird)	15 April	1971	6	1
Order Rodentia				
Family Cricetidae				
<i>Microtus oregoni</i> (Bachman)	21 Oct.	1970	2	1
<i>Microtus oregoni</i>	21 Oct.	1970	4	1
<i>Microtus oregoni</i>	14 April	1971	6	1

the beetles may leave, thus accounting for the scarcity of specimens. Nevertheless, of 16 *Sorex yaquinae* collected, 6 harbored beetles, while only 9 of more than 100 *Sorex trowbridgii* from 5 localities (over approximately 3-1/2 years) yielded *L. testaceus*.

The only conclusion that we can draw from our knowledge of the host mammals is that in western Oregon the beetle appears to be restricted to mammalian hosts that make extensive use of burrows.

## LITERATURE CITED

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